

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 79

By Tindell

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Sarah Moore Greene on the occasion of her 101st birthday.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pay tribute to those citizens who are celebrating special occasions in their estimable lives; and

WHEREAS, Sarah Moore Greene is celebrating her 101st birthday on February 22, 2011, a milestone that is being commemorated as yet another precious souvenir of life's rich pageant; and

WHEREAS, the daughter of a former slave and a railroad cook, Sarah Moore Greene was born on February 22, 1910, in Madisonville and raised in rural East Tennessee during the Jim Crow era; and

WHEREAS, one of four siblings, Ms. Greene was raised by her father, after her mother went on to receive her great reward when Ms. Greene was only five years old; and

WHEREAS, Sarah Moore Greene attended Tennessee A&I (now known as Tennessee State University), where she majored in math and worked in the school's pastry department; and

WHEREAS, at twenty-four years of age, she was joined in holy matrimony with William Greene but kept her maiden name "Moore," a slave name, as a tribute to her father; even after they separated, the two remained the best of friends until Mr. Greene's passing; and

WHEREAS, Sarah Moore Greene was an extremely talented and compassionate educator who worked assiduously to motivate her students to reach their full potential, both as scholars and as citizens; and

WHEREAS, an important member of her profession and community, this beloved school teacher was the first African-American to serve on the Knoxville Board of Education and

tirelessly advocated for the implementation of a kindergarten program in the Knoxville City School System; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of her outstanding tenure as a teacher, Sarah Moore Greene Magnet Technology Academy was named in her honor in 1974, and each year the grateful students host a birthday party to celebrate her tremendous contributions to education in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her stellar career in education, Ms. Greene is also a dedicated civil rights leader who devoted countless hours to challenging the institutionalized policy of segregation by promoting racial equality in our State and Nation; and

WHEREAS, a highly influential figure in the party of Abraham Lincoln, Sarah Moore Greene is a life-long Republican and was the first African-American to serve as a Tennessee delegate to the Republican National Convention; and

WHEREAS, her many professional accomplishments aside, Ms. Greene is fortunate to share love and companionship with her niece and nephew, and she is fondly called “Mother” and “Auntie Greene” by hundreds of students upon whom she has made an indelible impact; and

WHEREAS, as she sails gracefully into her second century, Sarah Moore Greene is still an active and productive member of society, enjoying the fruits of her labor during her golden years; and

WHEREAS, we wish to grasp this extraordinary opportunity to specially recognize one of Tennessee's most outstanding citizens on this very special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Sarah Moore Greene on the celebration of her 101st birthday, commend her exceptional service to the children of Tennessee and the Civil Rights Movement, and extend to her our best wishes for much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.